

Western Kentucky University

TopSCHOLAR®

WKU Archives Records

WKU Archives

11-24-1992

UA12/2/1 Hillside

WKU Student Affairs

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records



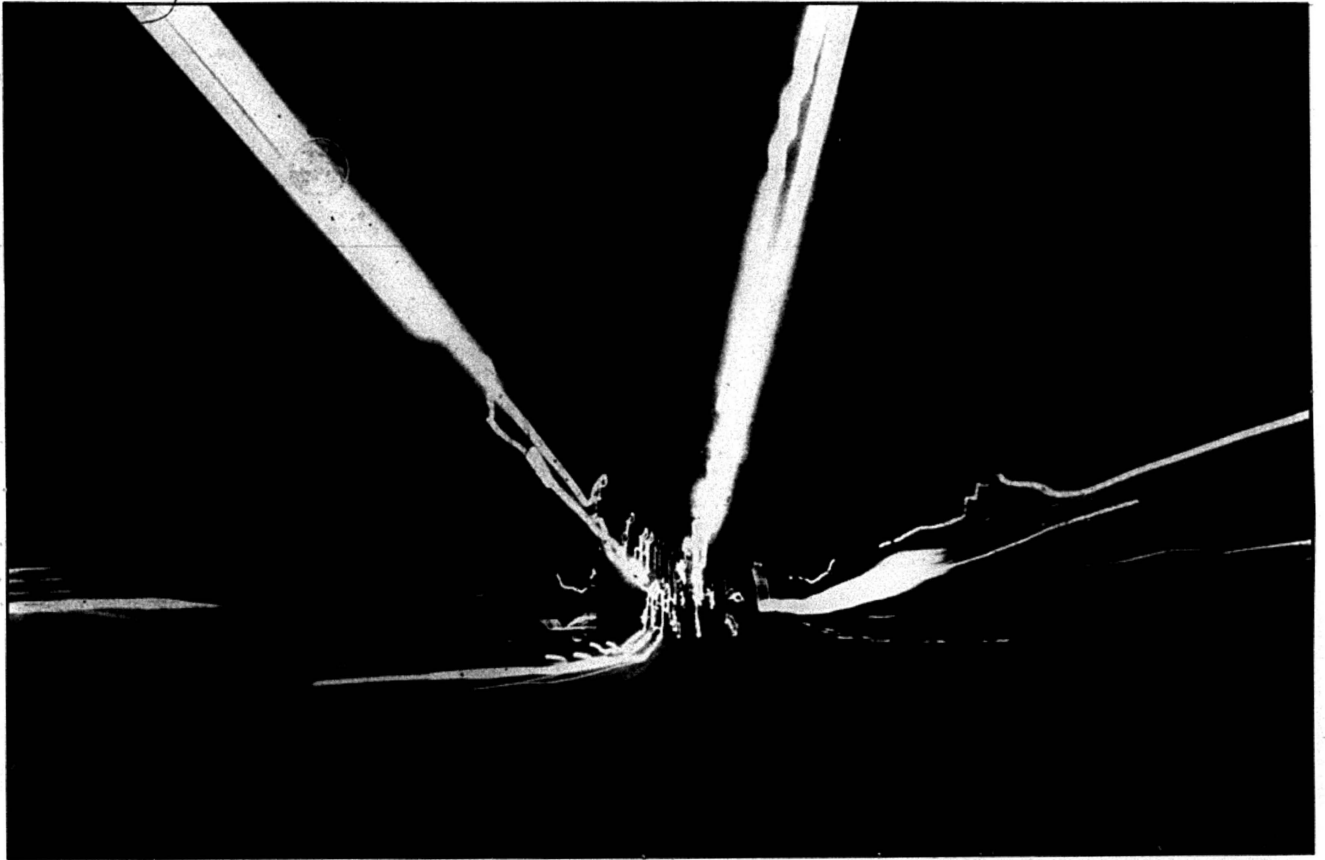
Part of the [Advertising and Promotion Management Commons](#), [Journalism Studies Commons](#), [Mass Communication Commons](#), [Public Relations and Advertising Commons](#), [Publishing Commons](#), and the [Social Influence and Political Communication Commons](#)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in WKU Archives Records by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

Hillside

College Heights Herald Magazine

Tuesday, November 24, 1992



COVER STORY: It's late on a Thursday night. What's going on besides parties?

INSIDE: Maybe you saw her on Donahue. She used to sell Tupperware. Now she sells erotic stories to adult magazines. And she teaches at Western.

Hillside

College Heights Herald Magazine



Cover Story: What goes on besides parties on a Thursday night in Bowling Green? Cover Photo: Soon after midnight, 31-W Bypass is deserted. Story by Travis L. Green and photos by Tom Leininger.

Page 6: Mary Ellen Belk sells stories about her sexual fantasies, and the part-time professor isn't catching any flak from the university. Story by Tanya Bricking and photos by Joe Carwile.



Magazine editor: Tanya Bricking
Photo editor: Chris McKenney

NIGHTLIFE

Maybe things are hopping on College Street. But what about the people who don't party on Thursday nights?

STORY BY TRAVIS L. GREEN

PHOTOS BY TOM LEININGER

It's Thursday night.

It could be any Thursday night in Bowling Green.

The weather has changed dramatically with a chilling wind, revealing a clear, moonlit, starry night.

It's Thursday, Nov. 12, 1992.

It's the day of the week Western students are told is the night to party.

It's when everyone drops their books, takes off from work and goes crazy.

Meanwhile, others are starting their work shifts, settling down with their books or just sitting around shooting the breeze.

10:32 P.M. ACADEMIC COMPLEX, ROOM 316

After taking a song request, Louis Raynor has made it through the first half hour of a four-hour shift at New Rock 92, WWHF-FM, the campus radio station.

"I can play what I want as long as it's in the rotation," said Raynor, a Louisville senior. "I can't bring in Jimmy Hendrix or the Eagles and just play them."

"I guess they'd ask me to leave then."

Raynor, who works at the station as part of his advanced radio class, sits facing the control board with its rows of dials and meters. Wooden cases mounted above the panel contain CDs and tapes, as do the other cases around the approximately 6-foot by 10-foot room.

Raynor said he likes the work, especially during the late-night hours.

"That's more of when I'm at my best," he said, "and I feel more with it."

As he searches for a R.E.M. request, the

phone rings with another caller asking him to play a favorite song.

"I try to put on as many requests as I can get," he said. Raynor receives about 10 requests per evening.

"At first I thought a lot more people would call, but I guess they have other things to do."

10:48 P.M. CRAVENS LIBRARY, EIGHTH FLOOR

Sitting across from each other in leather chairs next to an opened window, Louis Frank and Emily Bolton try to study for Friday exams amid the high temperatures supplied from the library heaters.

"I nearly passed out from the heat when we got here," said Bolton, who had been napping.

Frank, a Louisville junior, added that in spite of the heat at least it's quiet.

A party in Frank's apartment complex on Kentucky Street brought the couple to the library.

"I lived in the dorms for two years and it was always hard to study there," Bolton said. "There's so much going on that's too loud."

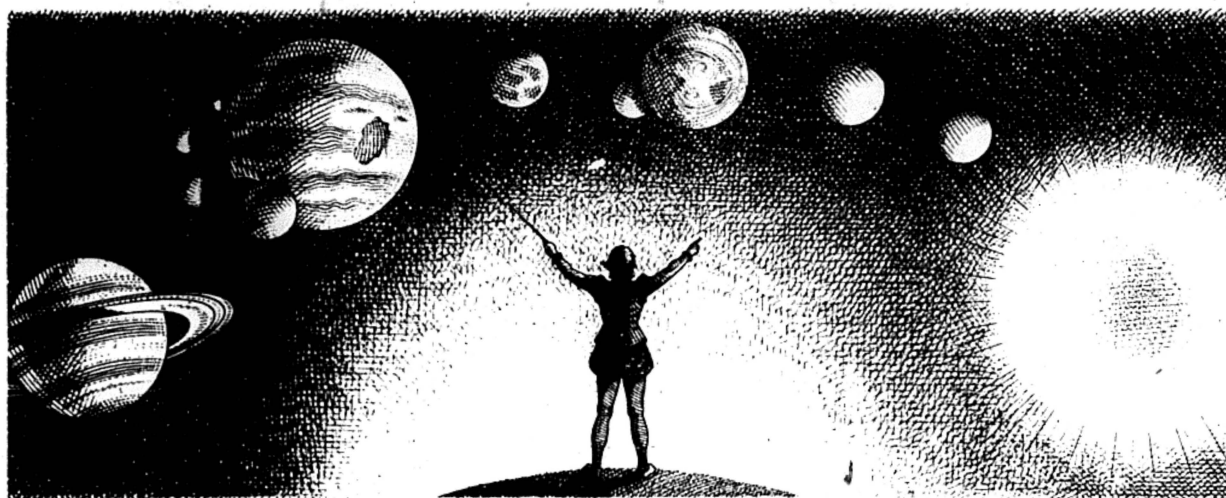
"I get more done in a nice private place."

The two said they normally didn't study in the library often, but this is the second time this week they've studied there.

"I've studied for three exams this week," said Bolton, a Frankfort junior. "It seems like they're piling up before the holidays."

Bolton was studying for exams in History 200 and English 304 while Frank studied Marketing 321.

The two had been in the library for about an hour and were going to stay about



**It took Galileo 16 years to master the universe.
You have one night.**

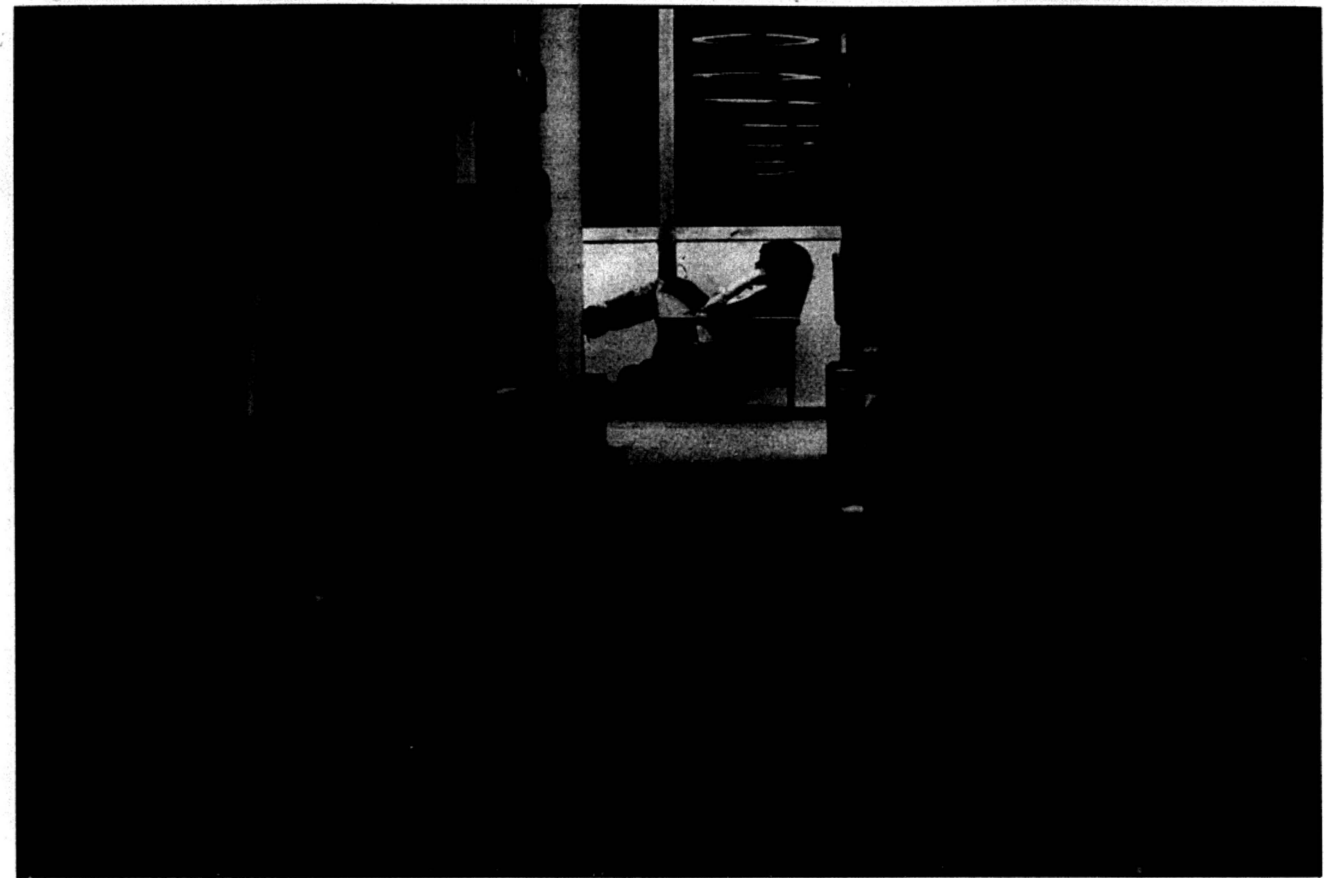
It seems unfair. The genius had all that time. While you have a few short hours to learn your sun spots from your satellites before the dreaded astronomy exam.

On the other hand, Vivarin gives you the definite advantage. It helps keep you awake and mentally alert for hours. Safely and conveniently. So even when the subject matter's dull, your mind will stay razor sharp.

If Galileo had used Vivarin, maybe he could have mastered the solar system faster, too.

Revive with VIVARIN®





Sometime around 11 p.m., Frankfort junior Emily Bolton takes a short nap in a chair on the library's eighth floor. She had been studying for

a test she had the next day. When asked what else there is to do in Bowling Green on a Thursday night, she said, "It sure is boring."

another hour.
"I have about one more chapter to go," Frank said.

11:04 P.M. NORTH HALL LOBBY

Leaning back in his yellow swivel chair, Frank Brinsley, a North Hall resident assistant, watches the security monitors lined up before him and talks with some friends.

Brinsley, a junior from Boise, Idaho, said this is the second time this semester he has had to work the desk on Thursday night.

"We've got a rotation so everyone does it," he said.

During his two and a half years working at dorm front desks — two years at McCormick Hall's desk and this semester at North — Brinsley said he has seen a lot.

"I've called Public Safety; I've called ambulances," he said. "I've held girls' hair out of their faces while they puked."

A friend, Ed Falk, a Winchester senior, quickly interjects that he really just called the dorm director who in turn called the police and ambulance.

Brinsley shrugs off the comments and continues describing the front desk work.

"The prime time when it's really hectic is

around 8:30 and 9 p.m.," he said. "Everyone is getting together to go somewhere, and it gets really loud."

After everyone has gone, he said the dorms are pretty quiet until after midnight.

"People come back and can't get their keys to unlock front doors," he said. "Drunk people banging on the doors really bothers me."

11:28 P.M. EGYPT PARKING LOT

"It's pretty quiet tonight," Public Safety Officer Mike Dowell says as he begins his final cruise

CONTINUED ON PAGE A4

Hot!
SPRING BREAKS

PRICES FOR STAY—NOT PER NIGHT!
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND \$109
5 AND 7 NIGHTS
DAYTONA BEACH \$68
5 AND 7 NIGHTS
PANAMA CITY BEACH \$81
5 AND 7 NIGHTS
STEAMBOAT \$129
2, 5 AND 7 NIGHTS
MUSTANG ISLAND / PORT ARANSAS \$132
5 AND 7 NIGHTS
HILTON HEAD ISLAND \$121
5 AND 7 NIGHTS
FORT LAUDERDALE \$146
5 AND 7 NIGHTS

12th Annual Party!
TOLL FREE INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS
1-800-321-5911

College Herald Heights

Having trouble putting the pieces together to get the job you want?

Are you lacking the necessary experience to land a good job after graduation in the field of journalism? If so, we may have just what you need.

The College Heights Herald, is now taking applications for all positions on the news and advertising staffs.

If you are interested, stop by 122 Garrett Conference Center and fill out an application. Deadline is December 1st.

Creative Resumes

Give us the facts, we create the resume
(502) 781-0572
Laser Printing

AOП AOП AOП AOП AOП AOП AOП AOП AOП AOП

Congratulations to
Robbin Morrison
November Alumna
of the Month

AOП AOП AOП AOП AOП AOП AOП AOП AOП AOП

LATE NIGHT IN BOWLING GREEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A3

around campus before getting off work at midnight.

Dowell, who has worked for Western for about three and a half years, said he has been on the 4 p.m. to midnight shift since August.

"This tends to be the busiest of all the shifts," he said. "There are more things to do and the work is more fun."

"You get most of your serious things during this time — most fights happen, more reports are taken, more thefts."

As Dowell shines his spotlight across the bushes bordering Egypt parking lot at the south end of campus, he looks for people "acting suspicious, stealing cars or damaging cars."

"People have got a lot of money in these cars, and we do the best we can to protect them."

As he drives along University Boulevard to Normal Street, Dowell discusses the some of the more exciting things the campus police deal with, such as fights and other disturbances.

"You don't really know what to expect," he explained. "A lot of our time is spent deterring crime, but we never know what the next call is going to be."

As the tour progresses, Dowell comments on how quiet this night is compared with the usually busy Thursday nights.

"I think a lot of parties are away from campus tonight," he said.

As he continues talking about having the power to give DUIs, he spots a car that looks suspicious and starts following it.

"Most major injuries and fatalities involve drinking," he said. "Mainly, our job is to protect people."

After following the car for a few blocks, he breaks off and turns onto a side street. "I guess they're OK."

12:22 A.M. GREAT AMERICAN DONUT SHOP ON 31-W BYPASS

With their study guides scattered across the booth's smooth table, Jennifer Johnson and Shannon Keith cram for Friday exams.

"We both have tests," Johnson, a Nashville senior, said. "It's been a really bad week."

Keith, a Louisville senior, said the exam she is studying for is the last of five exams this week.

Both came to the shop searching for a quiet place to study with food.

"The coffee will keep us awake and the doughnuts will keep us full," Johnson said while pointing to the clear glass case filled with a variety of doughnuts.

The two had been studying for about an hour and planned on staying another hour before leaving and maybe heading

to Murray's restaurant, an all-night diner farther down on 31-W Bypass.

"I'm the type of person who needs something sweet and then something salty," Johnson said.

"It's only 30 cents for something here though," she added. "It's at least 50 cents at Murray's."

Both said it was their first time studying in the shop, but they liked to vary their studying places.

"It's difficult for me to study in the same places," Johnson said. "It's good to vary where you study."

Keith said she doesn't like studying in the library because of the closing hours.

"As soon as you really start to get into what you're doing, it's time to leave."

1:14 A.M. MURRAY'S RESTAURANT

In a crowded cigarette smoke-filled room, a group of five sits at a table and enjoys a late-night snack.

Lynn Summers, Jenny Heidbrink, Jenny French, John Napier and Kelli Morris, with black stamps on their hands like a lot of the other restaurant patrons, have just left the Jaycee Pavilion at Lampkin Park where a party they were attending had been broken up by police.

"We had a good time," Summers said, "but we paid \$4 each for only an hour and a half."

Having spent their money for admission, the group was forced to pool their money for food.

"We split two biscuits and water three ways," Summers, an Auburn junior, said of herself and Bowling Green sophomores Heidbrink and French.

Morris, a Bowling Green freshman, and Napier, a Bowling Green resident, split an English muffin and jelly.

"It took almost all our money to get in at the pavilion," Summers said. "At least tomorrow is pay day."

Cave City freshman Scot Minor along with his two friends were sitting at the counter waiting to get served. They had also been to the pavilion.

"We were there for about an hour and a half," Minor said. "Just when it was getting good, it was busted."

1:52 P.M.

And the night continues.

The crisp autumn wind continues to blow through the empty streets, giving the impression the city and campus are deserted.

The library has closed, and New Rock 92 is getting ready to sign off.

Replacements have taken over at North Hall's front desk and the Public Safety patrol.

The doughnut shop studiers have moved on, and the biscuit/English muffin crew has gone in search of another party.

It's just another night in the life of Western.



LEFT: Between 11 p.m. and midnight in North Hall, Vanceburg junior Jeff Sizemore makes plans for the evening with his friend Shanda West.

TOP LEFT: Close to midnight, Public Safety Officer Mike Dowell cruises campus. He said Thursday nights are quieter than they used to be.

BOTTOM LEFT: About 1 a.m., Nashville senior Jennifer Johnson, left, and Louisville senior Shannon Keith study at the Great American Donut Shop on 31-W Bypass. They said it's cooler than the library. And it's open 24 hours, so they can stay as long as they want. Plus, there are doughnuts.



ABOVE: Cave City freshman Scot Minor, left, and his friends Aaron Hollis, a Madisonville freshman, and Chris Oakley, a Madisonville sophomore, wait for a seat at Murray's Restaurant about 2 a.m. They had been partying at the Jaycee Pavilion at Lampkin Park, but "just when it was getting good," Minor said, "it was busted."

LEFT: In North Hall lobby, about 12:30 a.m., Middlesboro junior Brian Middleton hugs Lexington sophomore Stacey Sergeant.

SEX UNDER COVERS

Until she was on Donahue, most of her students didn't suspect that Mary Ellen Belk moonlights as an erotic writer

STORY BY TANYA BRICKING
PHOTOS BY JOE CARWILE

By day, Mary Ellen Belk is a part-time English instructor at Western. By night — at least in the sexual fantasies she writes — she's Barbie.

Belk, 46, said Barbie is everything she's not.

The divorced former housewife has had her erotic writing published in adult magazines such as Penthouse, Variations and Nugget.

"I just let my imagination flow," she said. "I write my own fantasies, enjoy every minute of it, and they pay me money."

Her part-time teaching pays \$4,000 a year. Writing has boosted her yearly income by about \$15,000, and the money is part of what keeps her tapping at her computer every day.

Her publishing success began a few years ago. She saw an ad calling for erotic writing in Variations, a magazine that publishes articles in between pages showing naked women in graphic poses.

"I just decided to try it and see what would happen," Belk said. "The worst thing they could do would be to send it back. And they didn't."

"I used to have to sell Tupperware," she said. "This is so much more fun."

When she started writing sexual fantasies, she said she felt a little dirty. Now Belk, who said as a child she probably had perfect attendance at a Methodist Sunday school, finds erotic writing spiritual. Talking about her writing doesn't embarrass her, and she doesn't worry about how it will reflect on Western.

She appeared on the Phil Donahue show Oct. 28 and told the nation about the time she stood outside a lingerie store in Greenwood Mall fully dressed — except for underwear.

That revelation startled some of her community college students, who had heard about the show.

One student asked if she was wearing panties in class.

Belk hasn't been back to the mall since the outing that helped inspire these words:

"Rick called me from his office and requested that I dress for dinner and meet him at the mall. He said he would like me to wear a full skirt, a sweater, pumps with at least three-inch heels, garters and hose, and no panties. His voice dropped and, very seductively, he said, 'I want you to be available to me at any time tonight.'"

That quote and others Donahue read were pretty tame, Belk said. Things she's had published in adult magazines have been more graphic.

How graphic? She won't tell.

"I don't want everyone on campus walking around knowing my sexual fantasies," Belk said. "I don't know theirs."

And if students check the magazines to find out, they might have trouble. Her pen names

aren't always the same. Penthouse, which has published four of her stories in the last couple of years, makes up the names.

Which ones did Penthouse use? "Oh, I don't remember," Belk said. "Angela somebody. I remember that because I've used 'Angel.' Other ones I can't remember."

Penthouse pays about \$400 for a lead piece, Belk said, and she's gotten her share of rejections from them.

More often than not, however, Belk finds magazines to publish her work — but you have to go into adult book stores to find them.

The stories contain her intimate thoughts. And sometimes she makes her fantasies real.

What kinds of fantasies? She won't tell.

"I don't want everyone to know," she said. "Let's just say I won't get AIDS from it."

She said she gets turned on by her writing.

"Of course," she laughed from the armchair in her living room. "If you don't get turned on by your own writing, then you ought not write. At least at some level you should get turned on — no matter what you write."

Belk said she's got an audience that accepts her. But it wasn't always that way. Twelve years ago she thought about suicide. Writing gave her a way out.

"It's given me a lot of self confidence," she said. "A lot of people tell me I'm the best, and I joke and tell them I want lavish praise and lavish pay. I haven't gotten the lavish pay so much, but I have gotten some of the lavish praise."

Her four children are among the praise-givers. Two are in their late teens, and two are in their early 20s. Shannon, 22, the oldest, was on Donahue. She sat in the audience and, when

asked about her mom's work, said, "I think it's great."

Belk got on Donahue because one of her editors gave her name to the show. She didn't get paid for appearing, but the show paid for her travel, dinner and overnight stay in New York.

Her son John, an 18-year-old senior at Warren Central High, said what his mom does "is cool. She likes it."

And he said his friends don't tease him about it. But he did ask a girl out soon after his mom appeared on Donahue. "Her mom said, 'Wasn't his mom on Donahue? Is he like that?'"

John and his mom laugh about those things. Bowling Green freshman Robin Lovell said Belk's students like her laid-back style.

"She's good for non-traditional students," Lovell said. "She's had a family. She's had hard times. She's been a writer, and she's been a success at it. I guess she's shown us that you can do whatever you want if you put your mind to it."

Belk said she feels a little like a celebrity because people stop her in the halls and at the grocery to say they saw her. She thinks that will die down.

"I imagine that people that know me and find out about this are flabbergasted," she said. "But I hear more things like 'good for you' than anything else. Of course, I haven't talked to any of my old church friends from Georgia or Alabama, and I don't plan to."

Belk, an only child, was born in Ohio. Even as a child, she looked at adult magazines.

"I've seen them — different types all my life," she said. "We had Playboy on our coffee table when I was a kid."

Her dad came to Bowling Green when Western was a teacher's college, and the family moved



Mary Ellen Belk said Barbie, her writing persona, is everything she's not. She started using the pen name as a joke. Now, her friends and children give her dolls for her office. She's got a trio so far.



Mary Ellen Belk said she doesn't show her erotic writing to her students. And she said it would be hard for them to pick her writing out of an adult magazine because her pen names aren't always the same. In this class, she discusses literature such as "Death of a Salesman."

here. About 25 years ago, Belk married a Bowling Green man. They lived in Florida, Georgia and Alabama when her kids were young, and they returned to Kentucky in 1982.

They moved back to Bowling Green seven years ago. Belk and her husband divorced two years ago.

Belk doesn't have a man in her life and she doesn't want one right now. She's happy with the way things are going.

But 12 years ago, she was so depressed that she came up with a plan to commit suicide.

"I had razor blades and the whole thing," Belk said.

She said company showed up on her front porch and a pregnant neighbor called and wanted to know if she could count on Belk to take her to the hospital that night if she needed her help.

Belk's suicide scheme was ruined. She stayed with her neighbor that night. The neighbor talked Belk into going to counseling.

That's when Belk started praying.

"I asked, 'What do I have within me that's all mine?'"

It was her writing.

A friend loaned her a typewriter. Since then, writing has become her love.

"I was married for 22 years and only out for two years, and I'm just finding out what it's like to be on my own," she said. "I don't expect a romantic hookup for four or five years, and I want to get some novels written, and my kids are almost out of school. It's like I'm starting a new life."

Belk's father is dead and her 86-year-old mother's memory is failing. So she doesn't catch flak from her family about being too explicit. Her mom didn't remember about the Donahue show.

She admits that her mother probably would rather see her religious poetry that has been published.

Belk said her faith has led her to a lot of truth and that writing sexual fantasies is about writing truth.

"Sex and religion," Belk said. "I'm sure some people don't like those two things together."

Although seven of her novels have been rejected, Belk is concentrating on a new one.

"Love's Laughter" is the working title. Her pen name for that one is Leigh Burton — the middle names of her two oldest children — and she hopes to have it finished by the end

of the year.

Pat Carr, an associate professor of English, has seen Belk's writing progress. Carr especially remembers Belk's creative thesis, a fictionalized autobiography about a woman with a religious background and an eating disorder.

"I find her very outspoken," Carr said. "I haven't found her shocking. I like her honesty."

Joe Millichap, Belk's department head, said he feels protective of Belk because he thinks she's a good teacher.

"I've never had any complaints about her," he said. "Unless there's a problem with her teaching, I don't care what she does in her private life."

President Thomas Meredith said when he heard about Belk being on Donahue, he wondered how it would reflect on the university. He caught a bit of the show.

"You know," he said, "I might have preferred Western being talked about on another topic," but he said Belk's choice of writing wouldn't affect her job.

"Golly," Meredith said. "Writing subjects are very personal in nature, and it's not something on which the institution would take a stand."

English professor Frank Steele said Belk can write poems, short stories and essays on all kinds of subjects.

"Writing is some kind of machinery inside her that she can adjust according to the situation," he said. "She's talented. An unusual person. A good student. Quick. Always takes part in class. She's very fluent, very skillful, articulate and versatile."

Steele said he hasn't seen Belk's erotic writing, and he missed Donahue, even though it was marked on his calendar.

"I don't know what she'll end up doing," Steele said. "She may write the great American novel. The sequel to 'Gone With the Wind' has been written. But I don't know. She may write the sequel to another famous book."

Belk thinks she'll end up writing more about women and sexuality.

"I think many women don't know who they are sexually," she said. "If more women had their erotica and were more honest about their feelings and sexual fantasies then there wouldn't be such a problem with men and what's seen as their pornography. Let the men have their stuff. Let's have some fun."

**"I IMAGINE
that people that
know me and find
out about this are
flabbergasted."**

- MARY ELLEN BELK

START THE HOLIDAYS OFF RIGHT

DONATE PLASMA AND HELP SAVE A LIFE

Check out our new payment plan!

\$20 - 1st \$15 - 3rd
\$20 - 2nd \$15 - 4th
\$25 - 5th

\$95 within 3 weeks

All new and 30 day plus incentive donors eligible. Call or stop by for details.

plasma alliance

Committed to being The Best

1620 Church St., Nashville, TN 615-327-3816

HOURS: Mon. - Thurs. 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Fri. 7 a.m. 5 p.m. • Sat.-Sun. 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Local ID Required

Buy a Poinsettia and help the Cumberland Chapter of the National Hemophilia Foundation. Only \$8 for a 15 inch plant. For more information, Call Scott at 615-327-3816 or Donna at 615-373-0351.



MAZZIO'S

"Voted Bowling Green's Best Tasting Pizza"

**Check Mazzio's
Weekly Specials!**

Mon, Tues, Wed, & Thur Night 5-8

**All You Can
Eat Pizza**

\$2.99

With Salad

\$3.99

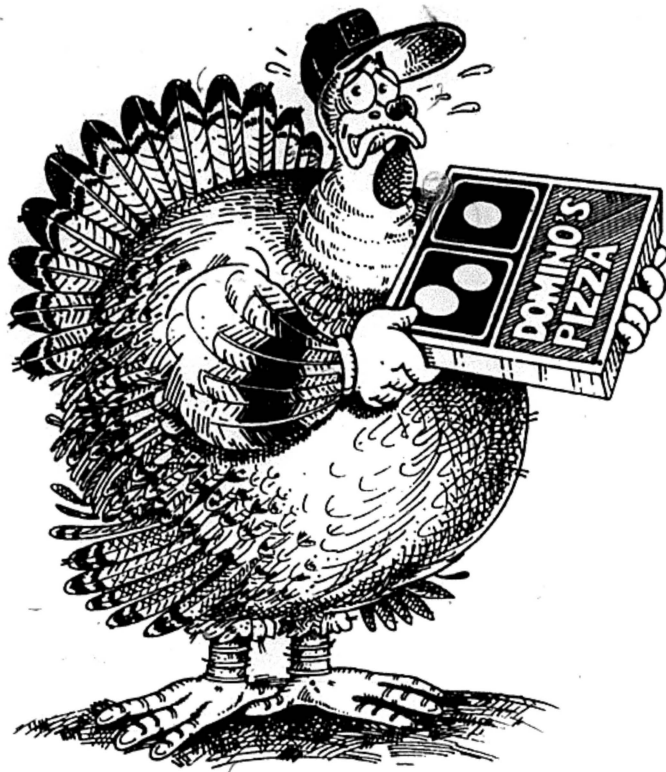
**\$5.99 Large Single
Topping Pizza**

MAZZIO'S PIZZA

Expires: Not valid with any other coupon offer promotion. One coupon per purchase please. Good at Bowling Green, KY location only. © 1992 Mazzio's Corporation

**Monday Night Football
Big Screen T.V. plus in-house Specials
Free Delivery After 4 p.m.
1780 Scottsville Rd. • 842-1200
(Across from Greenview Hospital)**

SAVE A TURKEY... EAT A PIZZA



SERVING WKU & VICINITY:

781-9494

1383 CENTER ST.

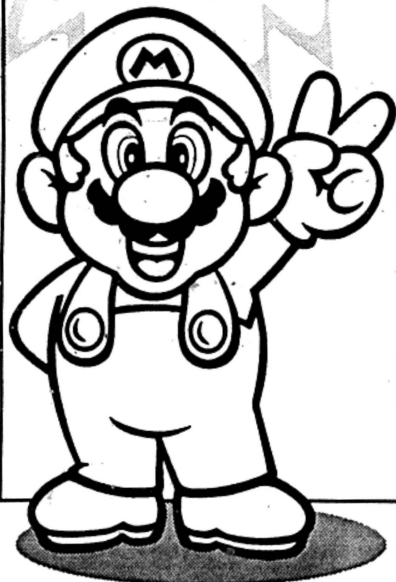
SERVING BOWLING GREEN:

781-6063

1505 31W BY-PASS

COMING SOON...

DOMINO'S
\$25 MILLION
Nintendo®
INSTANT
WIN GAME



COKE'S FOR CAMPUS

ASK FOR YOUR

 **FREE** 
COKE'S®

PLEASE MENTION WHEN ORDERING.

VALID FOR CAMPUS ORDERS ONLY. Delivery area limited to ensure safe driving. Drivers carry less than \$20. Drivers are not penalized for late deliveries.

CARRY-OUT • DELIVERY

**INDIVIDUAL PAN
PIZZA MEAL DEAL**

\$4.99

Our 1-topping individual pan pizza, an 8-piece order of Twisty Breadsticks and two Cokes.

EXPIRES: 12-8-92

Valid at participating stores only. Not valid with any other offer. Prices may vary. Customer pays applicable sales tax. Delivery area limited to ensure safe driving. Drivers carry less than \$20. Drivers are not penalized for late deliveries.

NPR0021

CARRY-OUT • DELIVERY

**SMALL
2-TOPPING PIZZA**

\$5.99 \$7.99
FOR ONE FOR TWO

EXPIRES: 12-8-92

Valid at participating stores only. Not valid with any other offer. Prices may vary. Customer pays applicable sales tax. Delivery area limited to ensure safe driving. Drivers carry less than \$20. Drivers are not penalized for late deliveries.

NPR0138
NPR0223

CARRY-OUT • DELIVERY

**LARGE
1-TOPPING PIZZA**

\$6.99 \$10.99
FOR ONE FOR TWO

EXPIRES: 12-8-92

Valid at participating stores only. Not valid with any other offer. Prices may vary. Customer pays applicable sales tax. Delivery area limited to ensure safe driving. Drivers carry less than \$20. Drivers are not penalized for late deliveries.

NPR0253
NPR0264

Limited delivery areas to ensure safe driving. Drivers carry under \$20. ©1992 Domino's Pizza, Inc.